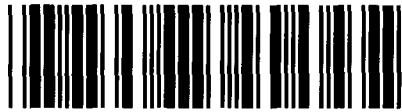


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Public Utility Commission of Texas

Memorandum

2020 MAR 16 PM 2:25

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

TO: Commissioner Arthur C. D'Andrea
Commissioner Shelly Botkin

FROM: Chairman DeAnn T. Walker 

DATE: March 16, 2020

RE: Open Meeting of March 16, 2020
Project No. 50664 – *Issues Related to the State of Disaster for Coronavirus Disease 2019*

On March 13, 2020, Governor Abbott issued “[a] proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in the state and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas.” As of today, the Commission has implemented a policy that employees will work from home. Due to the importance of the continued provision of electric, telecommunications, and water services within the state of Texas and the health and safety of the employees of the Commission and the general public, there are various rules that must be suspended in order to provide for the Commission to continue operations under the current circumstances.

Therefore, in light of the ongoing health crisis created by the coronavirus, and under the authority found in 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 22.5(a), I recommend that the Commission find that there exists a public emergency and imperative public necessity for suspending the following rules:

- 1) any provision in chapters 22, 24, 25, and 26 of title 16 of the Texas Administrative Code requiring that pleadings and documents in any Commission proceeding be physically filed with the Commission, and any rule that specifies the form or manner of such physical filings or requires that pleadings or documents be served on any party by a method other than email;
- 2) any provision in chapters 22, 24, 25, and 26 of title 16 of the Texas Administrative Code requiring that the Commission act by a certain date, unless that requirement is also found in statute; and
- 3) any provision in chapters 22, 24, 25, and 26 of title 16 of the Texas Administrative Code requiring that filings be made in a certain amount of time or that the presiding office act by a certain date, unless that requirement is also found in statute.

The suspension of these rules will best serve the public interest and will not prejudice the rights of any party. I propose that the order be effective in any Commission proceeding. All parties must file any pleading or document, except confidential information, with the

Commission solely through the Interchange on the Commission's website and provide notice, by email, to all other parties that the pleading or document has been filed with the Commission, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer until the Governor's disaster declaration is terminated. It will be incumbent upon all other parties to obtain a copy of the pleading or document by accessing the Interchange.

I look forward to discussing this matter with you at the open meeting.

